



HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
H.B. No. 3614

Introduced by CONG. EULOGIO "Amang" MAGSAYSAY

EXPLANATORY NOTE

At present the Philippines offers a very short ten-year basic and secondary school program compared to its neighbor-countries, like Japan, South Korea, Singapore, Thailand and Malaysia. This difference has, at least in part, account for the ineptitude of the Filipino students in the field of Math, Science and English as proven in their low performance in the National Diagnostic Tests.

To address this learning gap and in line to their continuous effort to raise the quality of learning outcomes, a Bridge Program has been designed by the Department of Education. The program has been offered to the students who failed the High School Readiness Test (HSRT) since the start of the school-year 2004-2005 in some Public Schools. However, its implementation has been made optional due to some protesting parties, thereby creating lapses in the full realization of its goals.

It is the purpose of this Bill to make this program mandatory to all high-school entrants who failed in the High School Readiness Test (HSRT). While it is true that the said program will entail additional costs, the benefits to be obtained from it surely outweigh these expenses. This Bill aims to provide students who lag behind an opportunity to catch up with their contemporaries.

In view of the foregoing reasons, passage of this bill is earnestly sought.

EULOGIO "Amang" R. MAGSAYSAY

THIRTEENTH CONGRESS OF THE REPUBLIC)
OF THE PHILIPPINES)
First Regular Session)

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AN ACT MAKING THE BRIDGE PROGRAM MANDATORY

Be it enacted by the Senate and the House of Representatives of the Philippines in Congress assembled:

SECTION 1. The implementation of the "Bridge Program" for the high-school entrants who failed the High School Readiness Test (HSRT) shall be made mandatory.

SECTION 2. The Secretary of Education shall issue the necessary rules and regulations for the immediate and effective implementation of this Act.

SECTION 3. The amount necessary for the implementation of this Act shall be charged to the current appropriations of the Department of Education. Thereafter, such sums as may be necessary for its continuous implementation shall be included in the annual General Appropriations Act.

SECTION 4. This act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in the Official Gazette or in any two (2) national newspapers of general circulation.

Approved,